

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. SERIAL NO. 10/797,110

ART UNIT 2821
Q80389

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, 1st paragraph:

The present application claims foreign priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-067568, filed March 13, 2003, the contents of which ~~[[is]]~~ are incorporated herein by reference.

Pages 6-7, bridging paragraph:

Figs. 13A and 13B show variations in the temperature of the filament achieved during the simple blinking test, the blinking (light is dimmed at the time of extinction) test, the blinking (light is dimmed to a threshold value at the time of extinction) test, and the voltage switching illumination test. Fig. 13A shows variations in temperature of filament having arisen after simple ~~blinking~~ blinking, blinking (dimming during extinction), blinking (dimmed to threshold value during ~~extinction~~ extinction as in embodiment). Fig. 13B shows variations in temperature of filament having arisen after simple blinking and voltage switching.

Page 13, 1st full paragraph:

In view of at least the foregoing drawbacks of the related art, the present invention has been conceived on the basis of the findings described by the inventor. While the following

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objects are listed, it is noted that the present invention need not satisfy these objects, [[nor]] or any other objects.

Pages 16-17, bridging paragraph:

~~The lamp~~ The lamp unit to be subjected to dimming and extinction control (corresponding to the lamp unit and/or auxiliary lamp) gradually decreases the quantity of light radiated from a normal illuminated state. When the quantity of light has decreased to a certain quantity of light, the light is extinguished. Hence, when compared with a case where the light is suddenly extinguished from a normal illuminated state, variation in the quantity of light is mild and does not induce any sudden change.

Page 37, 1st full paragraph:

Therefore, during extinction dimming control of the lamp units 40, 50, the lamp units 40, 50 are subjected to dimming control such that the quantity of light is gradually decreased by means of gradually decreasing the applied voltages over a period of one second until the lamp units shift from the illuminated state—in which rated power (i.e., a rated voltage) is applied to the lamp units—to the threshold value (about 9 volts). However, the temperatures of the filaments of the valves 44, 54 do not reach the transition point (transition temperature). Hence, the filament will not be affected by the annealing achieved at the transition point (transition temperature). Therefore, the crystalline structure of the filament does not change to a structure which is easily deformed by stress.

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Please amend the Abstract as follows:

Lamp units for radiating a beam ahead of a vehicle in a light distribution pattern are housed in a lamp body. Illumination of the auxiliary lamp units is controlled based on driving conditions. Illumination control means extinguish light through dimming by gradually decreasing voltage applied to the light ~~sources~~ sources. When the applied voltage has dropped to a threshold value, the applied voltage is controlled to zero immediately. Compared to when the lamps remaining in an illuminated state are suddenly extinguished, a change in quantity of light is mild, and no uncertainty arises. Below a threshold value where the applied voltage gradually drops to the threshold value and a change may arise in the filament crystalline structure due to annealing at a transition temperature, the applied voltage approaches zero. Hence, the filament does not pass from the transition temperature while being rapidly cooled, thus avoiding filament crystalline structure change.